

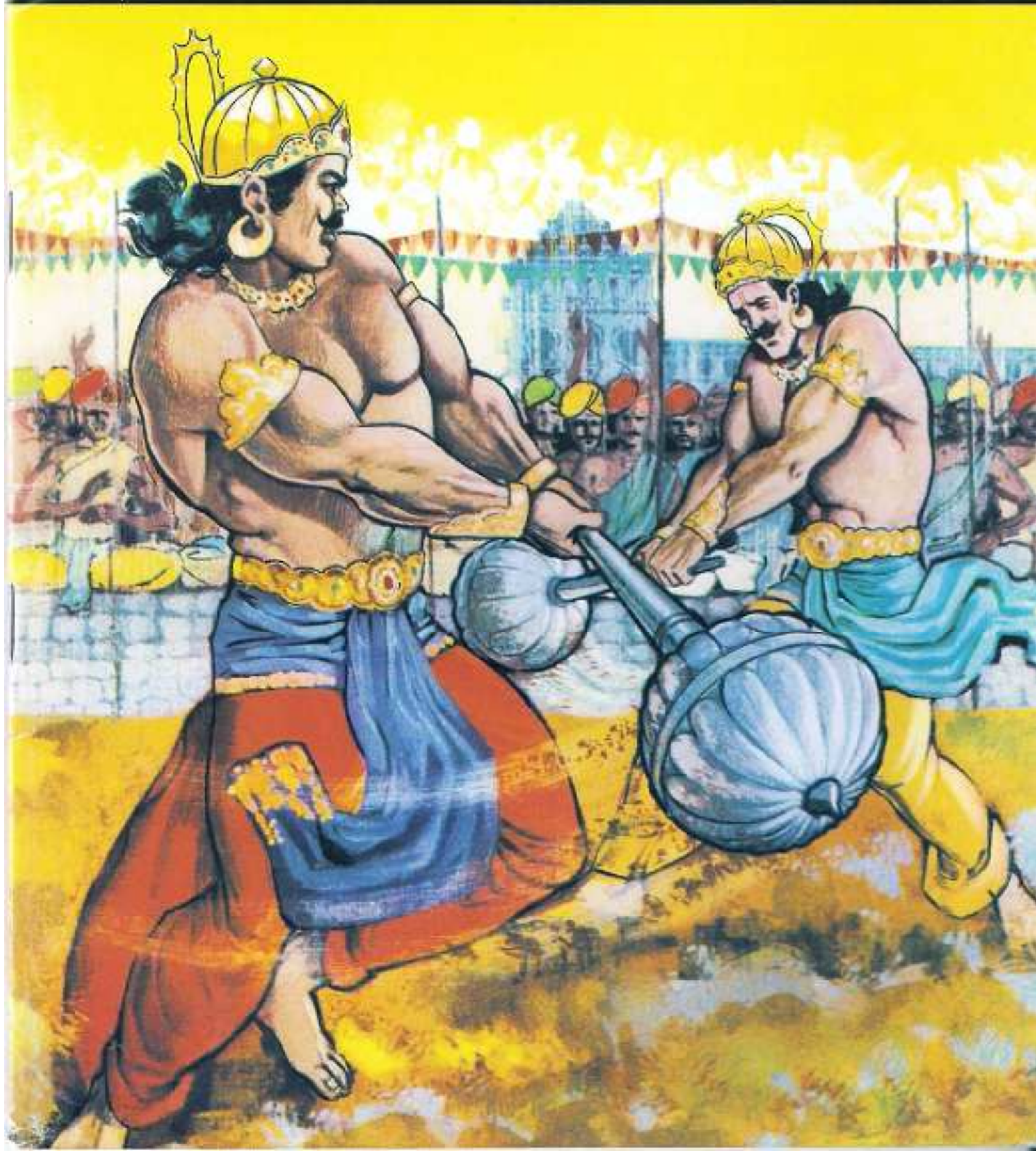


THE PANDAVA PRINCES

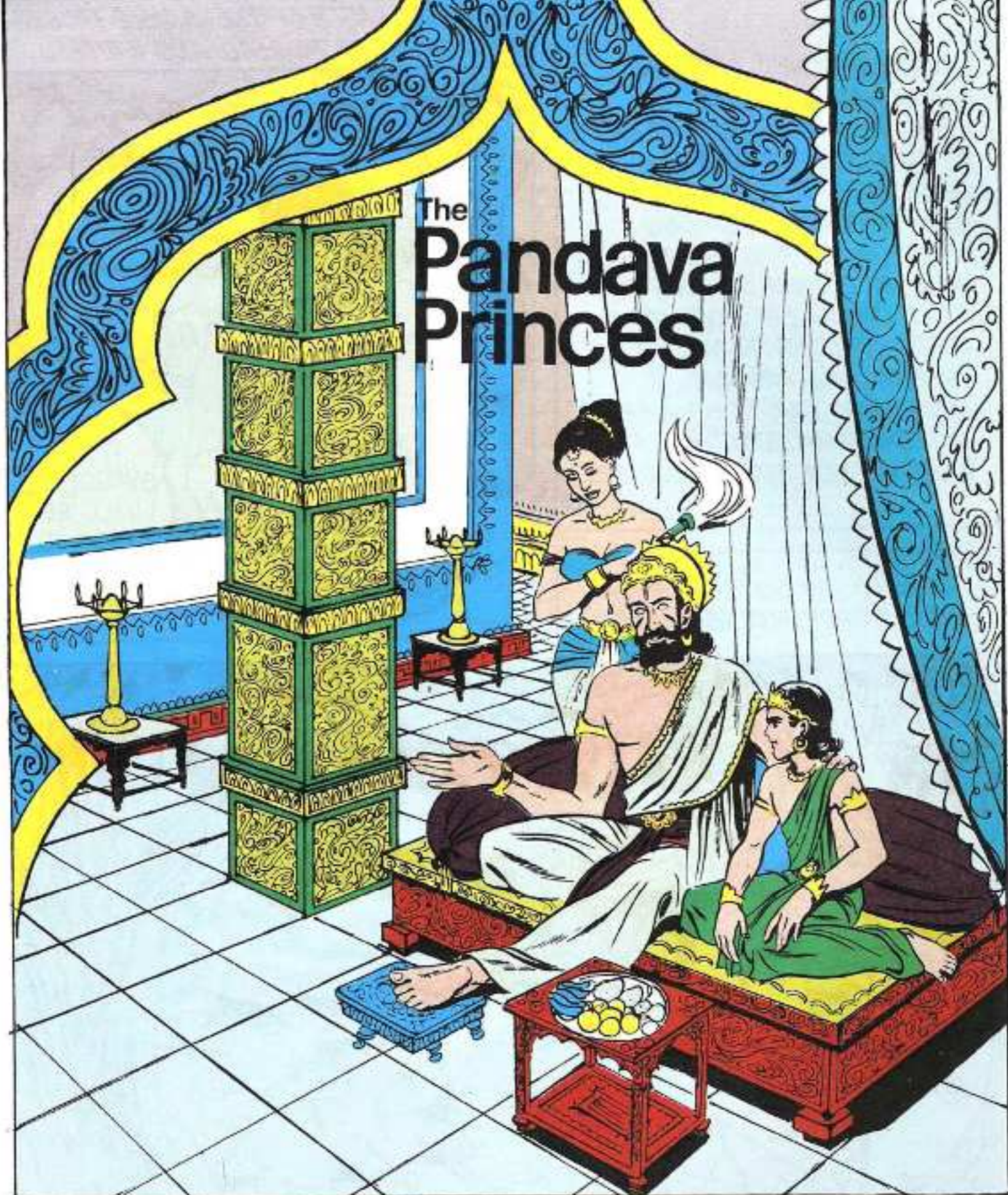
PANDU'S FIVE BRAVE SONS

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The Pandava Princes

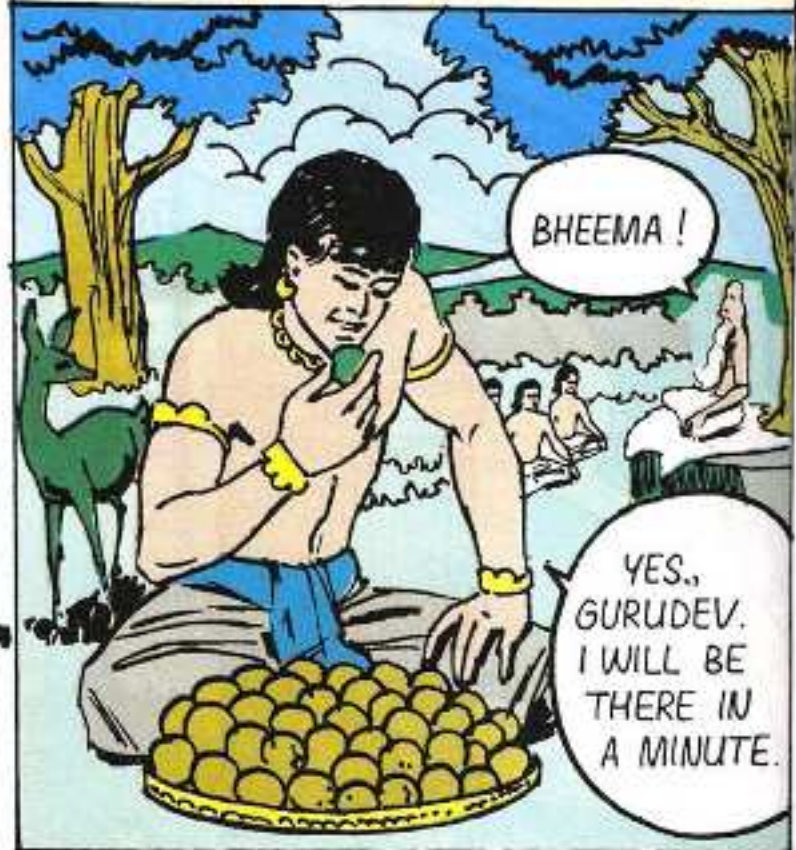


THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, INDIA WAS DIVIDED INTO MANY SOVEREIGN STATES. ONE OF THEM WAS HASTINAPURA, RULED BY THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA. HE HAD A HUNDRED SONS, WHO WERE CALLED THE KAURAVAS. THE ELDEST WAS DURYODHANA.

DHRITARASHTRA'S BROTHER PANDU, HAD RULED THE KINGDOM EARLIER, BUT HE HAD RETIRED TO THE FOREST, BECAUSE OF CONTINUED ILLNESS. PANDU HAD TWO WIVES- KUNTI AND MADRI. THERE IN COURSE OF TIME, THREE SONS WERE BORN TO KUNTI- YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA AND ARJUNA. MADRI HAD TWO SONS- NAKULA AND SAHADEVA. TOGETHER THEY WERE CALLED THE PANDAVAS.

THE HARD JUNGLE LIFE MADE THEM STURDY AND FEARLESS.

THE GREAT SAGES OF THE JUNGLE TAUGHT THE PANDAVAS TO READ AND WRITE.



WHEN PANDU DIED, MADRI BURNT HERSELF ON THE PYRE. SAGE VYASA CAME TO CONSOLE KUNTI.



ARJUNA ! I HEARD FROM MOTHER THAT WE ARE LEAVING FOR HASTINAPURA TOMORROW



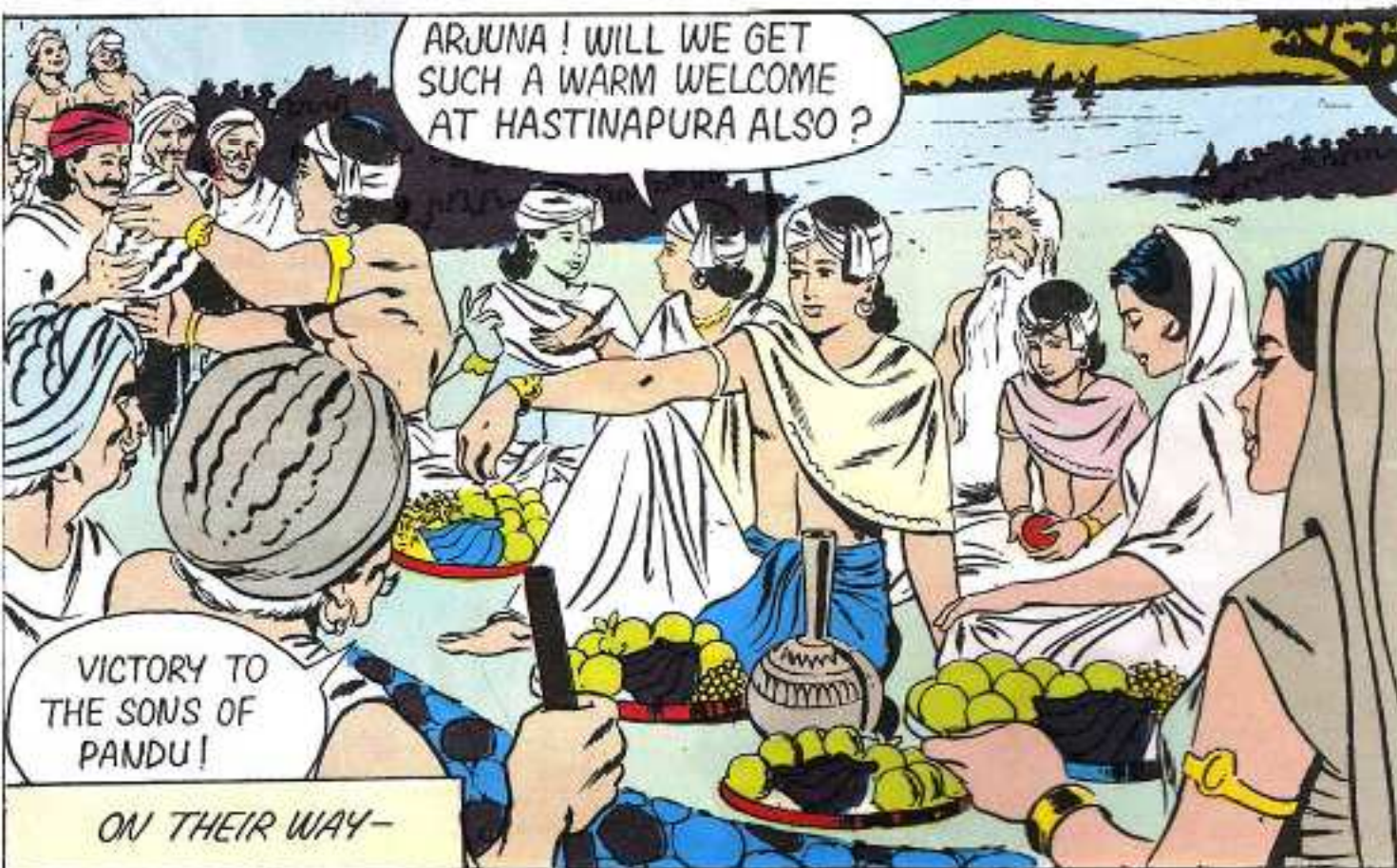
AT THE PALACE, YOU WILL MEET BHEESHMA, YOUR GREAT GRAND UNCLE, VIDURA, THE WISE MINISTER AND...

...OUR HUNDRED COUSINS! I WONDER HOW OUR UNCLE REMEMBERS THEIR NAMES!

NEXT DAY—



ARJUNA ! WILL WE GET SUCH A WARM WELCOME AT HASTINAPURA ALSO ?



ON THEIR WAY—

COME, MY
SONS.

AT THE PALACE, THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA
WELCOMED THEM WITH A SHOW OF LOVE.

SONS INDEED! AND
WHO ARE WE?

BHEESHMA, THEIR GREAT GRAND UNCLE,
LOVED THEM AS MUCH AS HE DID THE
KAURAVAS.

DUHSHASANA! DURYODHANA!
LIVE TOGETHER AS
BROTHERS WITH THE
PANDAVAS.

BE WORTHY SONS
OF THE GREAT
PANDU.

VIDURA TOO,
BLESSED THEM.

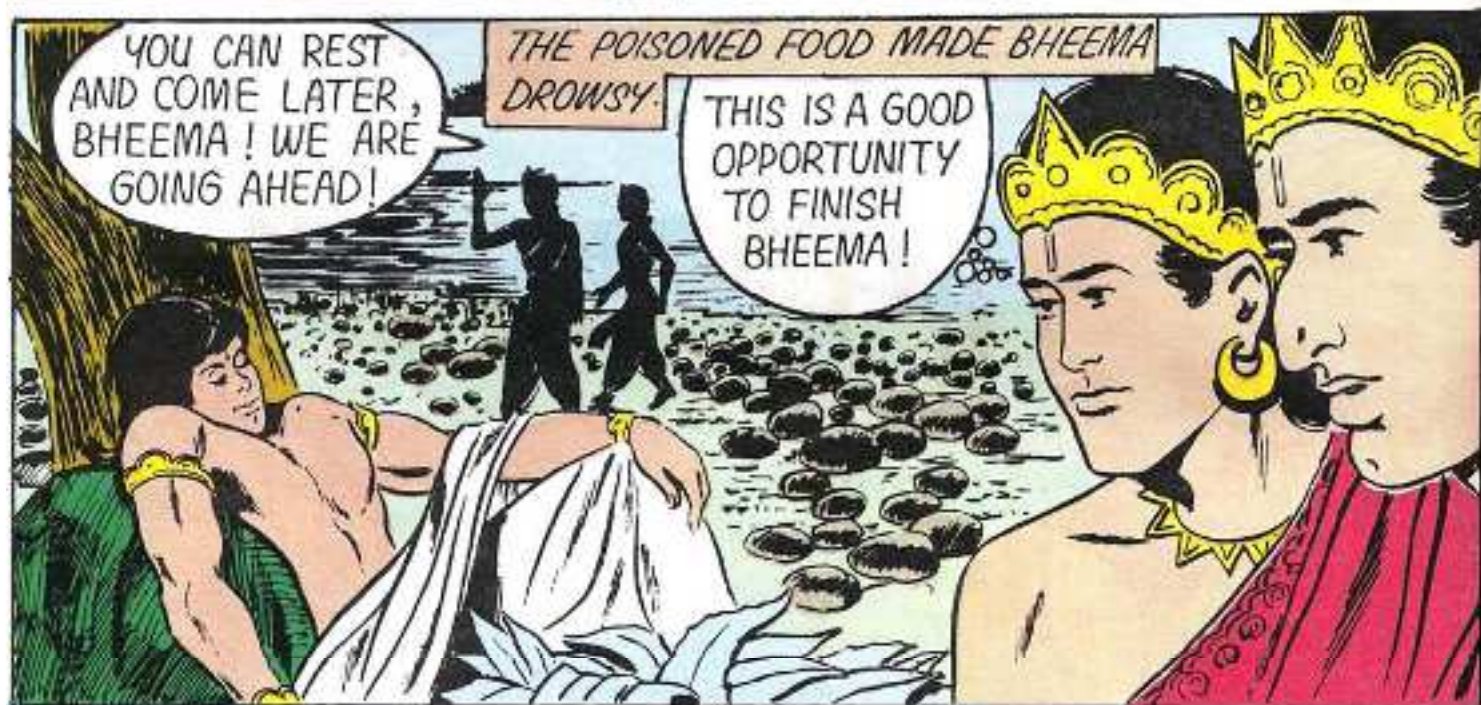
AS THE DAYS PASSED,
DURYODHANA'S HATRED OF
THE PANDAVAS GREW.

THIS YUDHISHTHIRA MAY ONE DAY BECOME THE
CROWN PRINCE.

AN HONOUR WHICH
IS YOURS BY RIGHT,
DURYODHANA!

THE KAURAVAS ENVIED THE FIVE PRINCES.





NEAR THE PALACE GATES,
YUDHISHTHIRA MET DURYODHANA.



WHERE IS
BHEEMA?

HE MUST BE
IN THE PALACE.
HE LEFT MUCH
BEFORE US.

IN THE RIVER, BHEEMA ESCAPED
THE IRON SPIKES, BUT THE SNAKES BIT HIM.



THE SNAKE POISON ACTED AGAINST
THE POISONED FOOD WHICH HE HAD
EATEN.



WHERE
AM I?

HE TWITCHED HIS MUSCLES TILL THE
BONDS BURST.



SOON HE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND REACHED THE PALACE.

HELLO,
DURYODHANA!
THE SNAKES
SEND YOU
THEIR
LOVE.



HOW DID HE
SURVIVE?



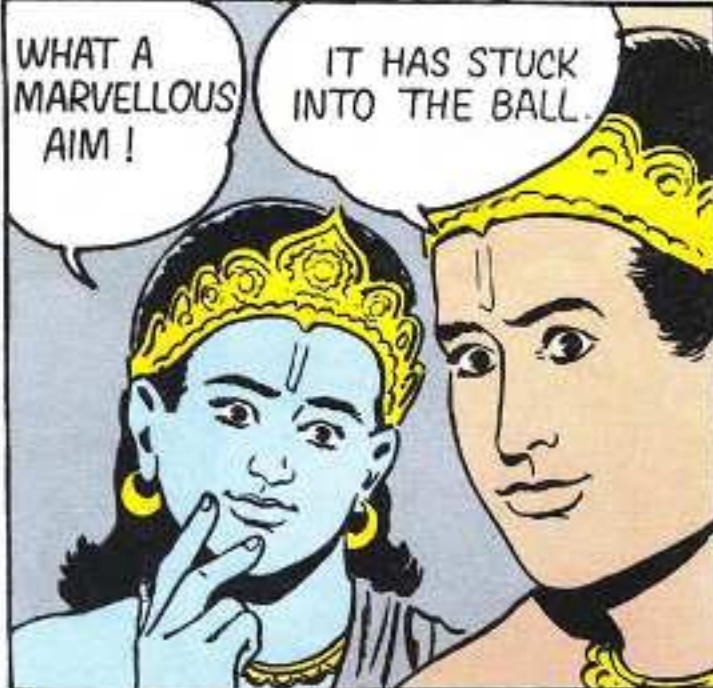


ONE DAY THEY WERE ALL PLAYING WITH A BALL ON AN OPEN GROUND OUTSIDE THE CITY



A POORLY-CLAD BRAHMAN APPROACHED THEM





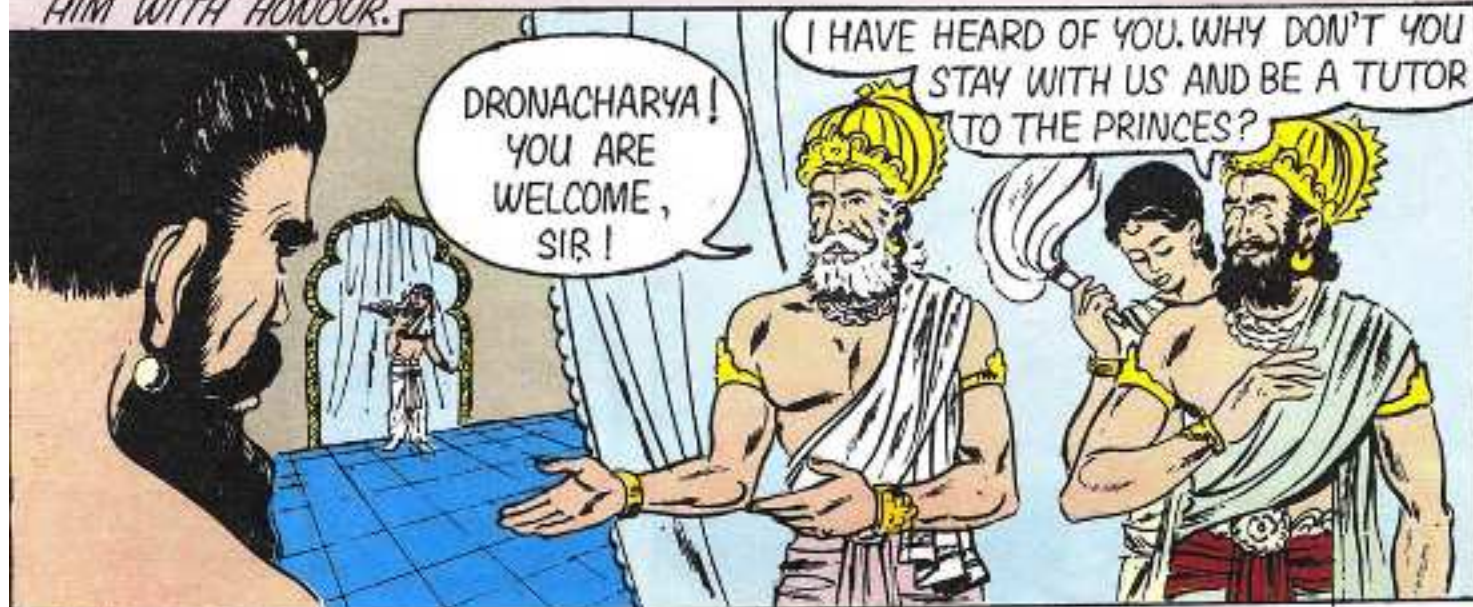
WHEN HE PULLED THE CHAIN, THE BALL CAME OUT WITH IT.



THE BRAHMAN SENT AN ARROW STRAIGHT INTO THE WELL. IT BOUNCED BACK BRINGING WITH IT THE PRECIOUS RING.



AT THE COURT, BHEESHMA RECOGNISED HIM. KING DHRITARASHTRA RECEIVED HIM WITH HONOUR.



THE PRINCES LEARNT THE ARTS OF WAR FROM DRONACHARYA.



ONE DAY, DRONA HELD A CONTEST TO WHICH THE KING WAS INVITED. A BIG CROWD CAME TO WITNESS THE FEATS.



DURYODHANA INSTANTLY TOOK A LIKING FOR KARNA. BY BEFRIENDING HIM, HE WANTED TO HUMILIATE ARJUNA.

FRIEND KARNA!
I PROMISE
YOU THE
KINGDOM
OF ANGA.



AFTER OBTAINING THE PERMISSION OF KING DHRITARASHTRA, KARNA WAS CROWNED THERE AND THEN.

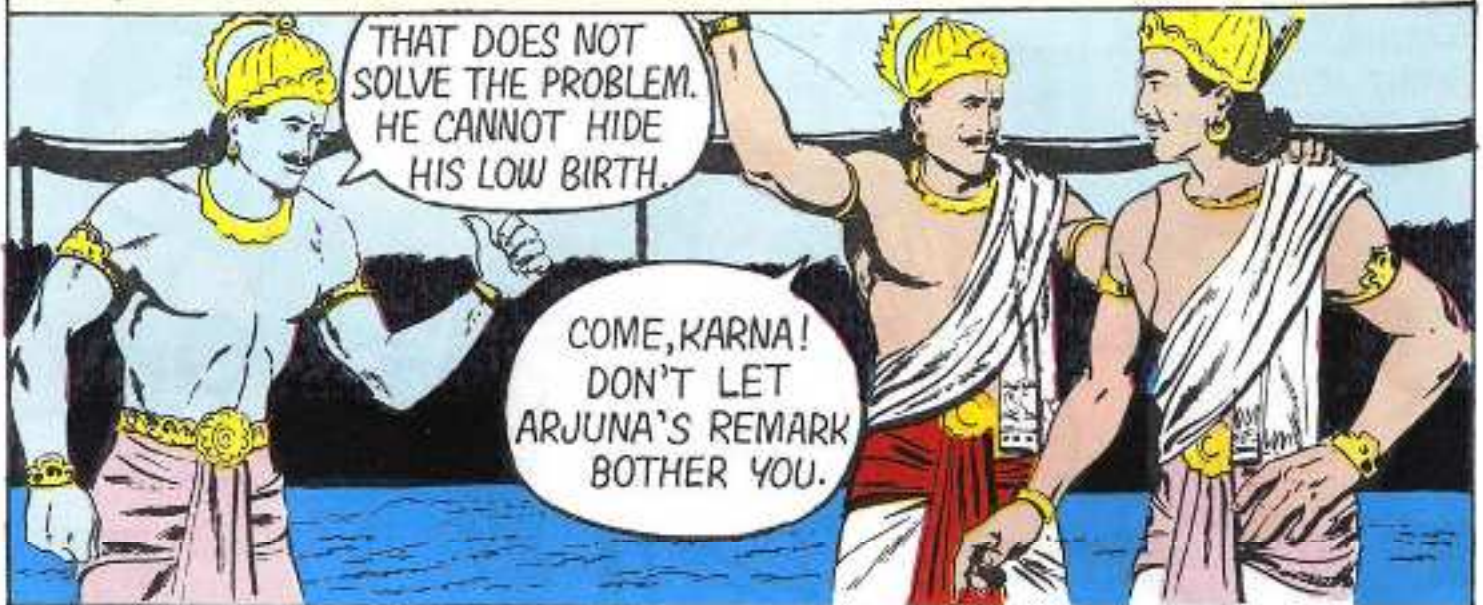
HOW CAN I EVER
REPAY YOUR
KINDNESS,
DURYODHANA!



THE QUICKNESS OF DURYODHANA'S ACTION ASTONISHED THE WHOLE GATHERING.

THAT DOES NOT
SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
HE CANNOT HIDE
HIS LOW BIRTH.

COME, KARNA!
DON'T LET
ARJUNA'S REMARK
BOTTER YOU.



KUNTI, WHO WITNESSED ALL THIS,
WAS ALSO SAD.

HE IS MY SON! BUT
WHEN HE WAS BORN
I WAS SO YOUNG.



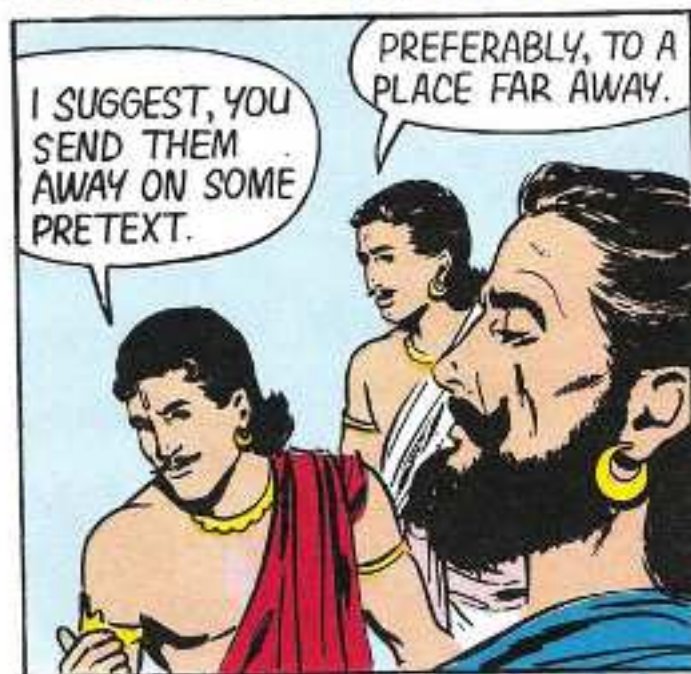
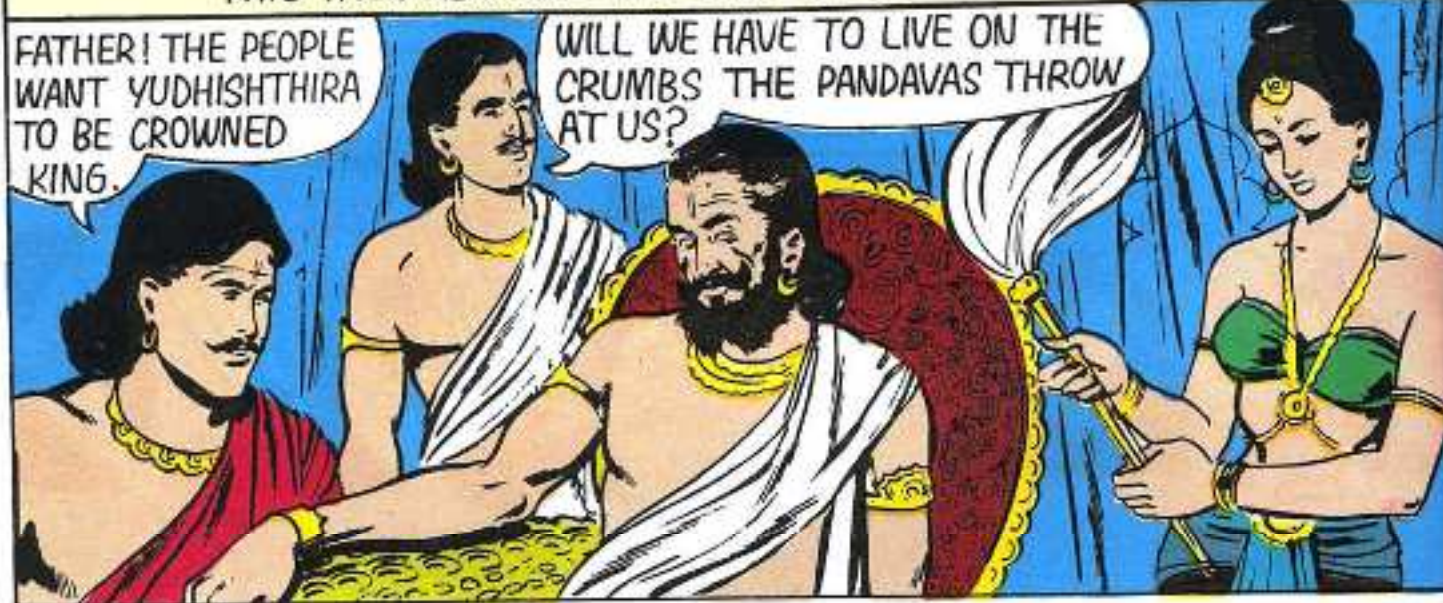
"I CAST HIM
AWAY. THIS
CHARIOTEER MUST
HAVE FOUND HIM"



THE PANDAVA PRINCES WERE LOVED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



THIS TALK REACHED THE EARS OF DURYODHANA.



SO THE PANDAVAS WERE SENT TO VARANAVATI TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL BEING HELD THERE.



DURYODHANA WHISPERED SOMETHING
IN THE EARS OF PUROCHANA,
A CLEVER BUT SLY ARCHITECT.



VIDURA WARNED YUDHISHTHIRA
TO BE CAREFUL.



WELCOME TO
THE PANDAVA
PRINCES.



AT VARANAVATI-

WHEN PUROCHANA FINISHED BUILDING A GRAND PALACE FOR THE
PANDAVAS, THEY MOVED INTO IT.

WHAT A
WORK OF
ART!

ART INDEED!
IT'S BUILT WITH
...LAC.

THIS
CONTAINS
JUTE...



THE PANDAVAS WERE
CORRECT.

EVEN THIS
ARTIFICIAL GARDEN
HAS FLOWERS AND
LEAVES OF
WAX.

WE
ARE CAUGHT
IN A TRAP.

EVERY DAY THEY WENT HUNTING AND MADE THEMSELVES FAMILIAR
WITH THE PATHS OF THE JUNGLE.

WHEN PUROCHANA SETS
FIRE TO THE PALACE WE
SHALL TAKE SHELTER
HERE.

BUT WHY WAIT
FOR HIM TO SET
IT ON FIRE?

ONE DAY-

THANK
YOU.

I AM A MINER!
ACHARYA VIDURA
HAS SENT ME TO
HELP YOU.

THE MINER
HAS DONE
A GOOD JOB OF
THIS TUNNEL.

AT LAST—

WE COULDN'T WAIT FOR PUROCHANA TO SET FIRE TO IT.

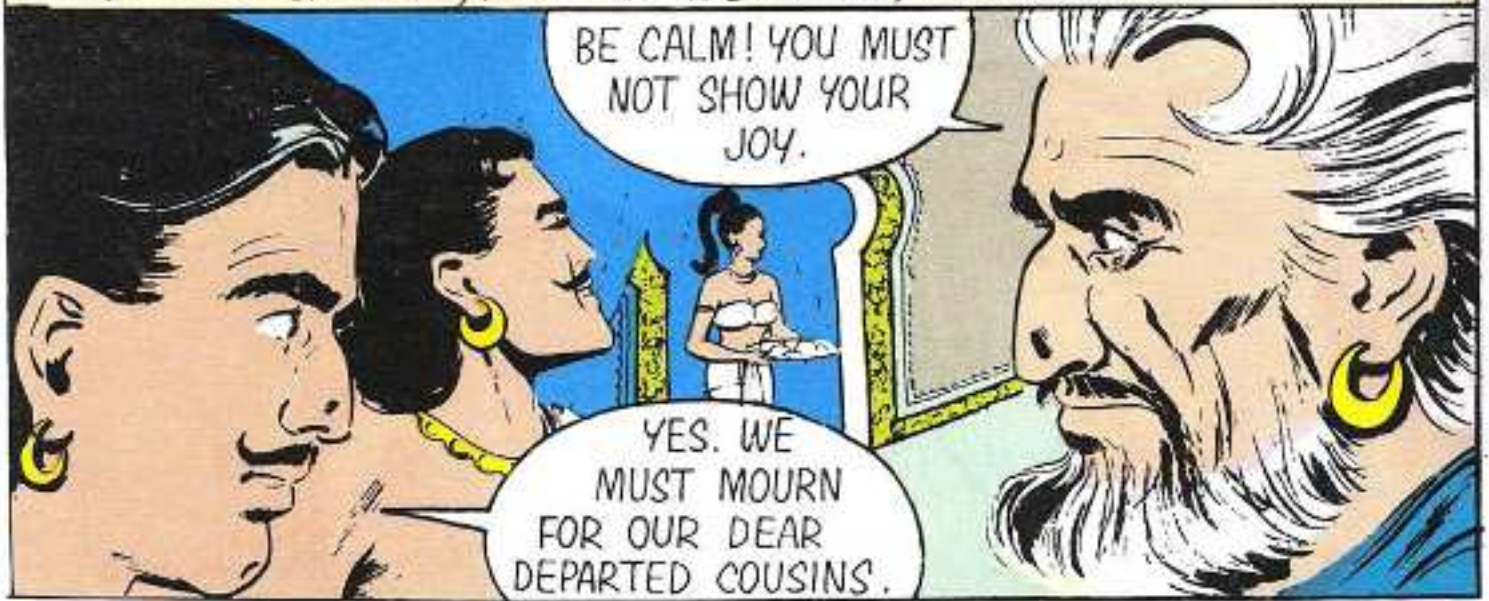
LET US GO INTO THE TUNNEL QUICKLY!



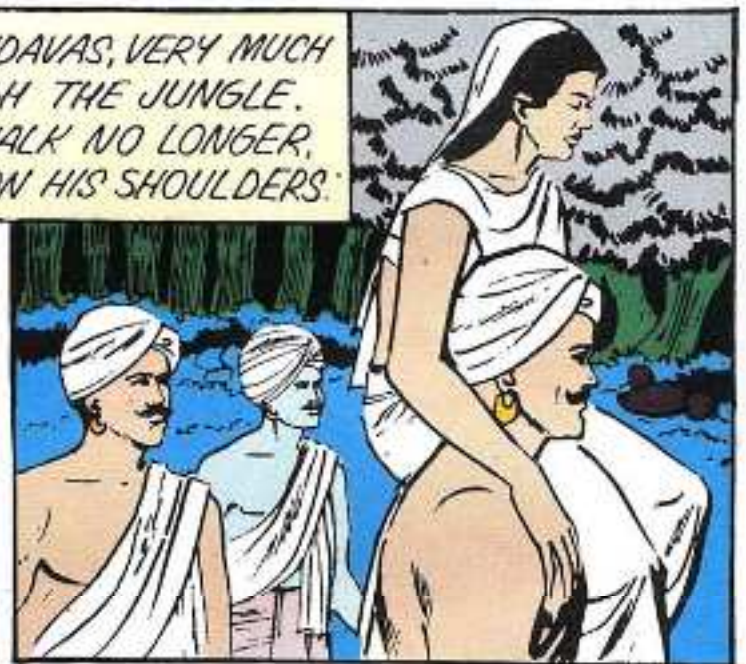
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE WHOLE PALACE WAS REDUCED TO ASHES. PUROCHANA WAS BURNT ALIVE IN THE TRAP WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SET.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HASTINAPURA, DURYODHANA AND DUHSHASANA WERE HAPPY. SHAKUNI, THEIR WICKED UNCLE, CAUTIONED THEM.



MEANWHILE, THE PANDAVAS, VERY MUCH ALIVE, TRUDGED THROUGH THE JUNGLE. WHEN KUNTI COULD WALK NO LONGER, BHEEMA CARRIED HER ON HIS SHOULDERS.



HE EVEN TOOK NAKULA AND SAHADEVA ON HIS HIPS.



LATE IN THE EVENING, THE NEXT DAY, THEY REACHED THE RIVER GANGA. GREETINGS FROM ACHARYA VIDURA. HE ASKED ME TO WAIT FOR YOU.



AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER, THEY ENTERED A DENSE FOREST.



I CAN'T WALK ANY FURTHER!

THEY LAY DOWN TO REST. BHEEMA ALONE STAYED AWAKE.



THIS WATER WILL REFRESH THEM. I WILL REMAIN AWAKE AND GUARD THEM.

FOR MANY DAYS THEY WANDERED. UP AND DOWN THE HILLS, THEY TREKKED. AT LAST IT SEEMED THAT THEY WERE NEAR SOME HUMAN HABITATION.



THERE! LET US GO AND ASK THEM FOR FOOD AND SHELTER!

NO, NAKULA! DON'T YOU SEE- THEY ARE RAKSHASAS!!

BUT THE RAKSHASAS WERE SOON ON THEIR TRAIL. BHEEMA FACED THEM WITH AN UPROOTED TREE.



HIDAMBASURA, THE RAKSHASA CHIEF, STEPPED FORWARD AND TRIED TO SNATCH THE TREE FROM BHEEMA'S HAND.



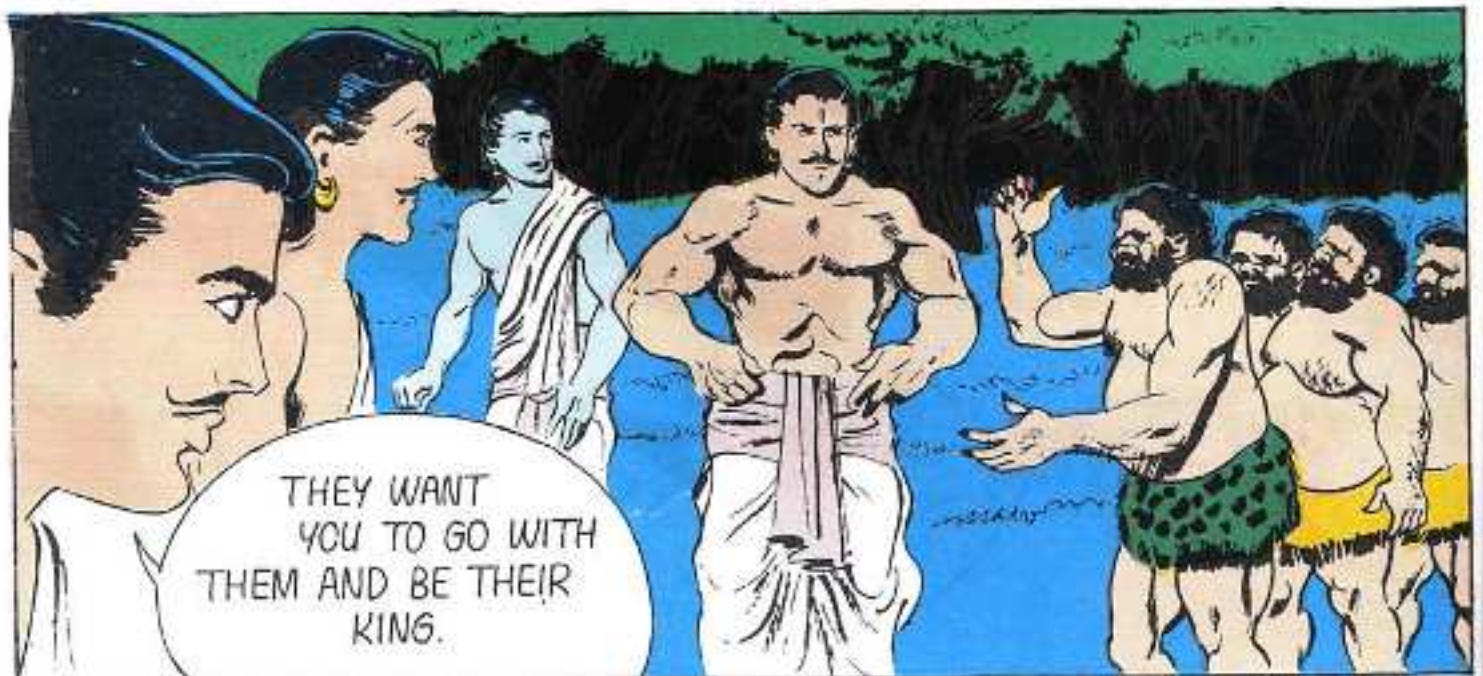
A FIERCE DUEL FOLLOWED...



...IN WHICH HIDIMBASURA WAS KILLED.



SOON—



THE PANDAVAS ACCOMPANIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE AND THERE BHEEMA MARRIED HIDIMBAA THE SISTER OF HIDI MBA.



THESE RAKSHASAS ARE NOT SUCH A BAD LOT AFTER ALL, YUDHISHTHIRA!



AFTER SOME DAYS—

BHEEMA! I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE. LET US GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.



AS YOU WISH, BROTHER!



WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS TOWN, GOOD MAN?

EKACHAKRAPURA AND YOU ARE WELCOME, GOOD BRAHMANS!

GOOD! HE THINKS WE ARE BRAHMANS.

AFTER A LONG JOURNEY—

IN EKACHAKRAPURA, THE PANDAVAS LIVED IN THE HOUSE OF A POOR BRAHMAN. ONE DAY—

WHAT IS THE MATTER, GOOD BRAHMAN?

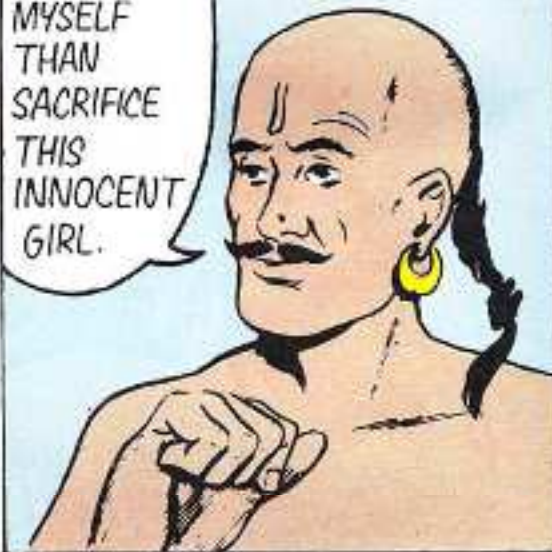
THIS LITTLE DAUGHTER OF OURS WILL SOON BE EATEN BY BAKASURA, WHO LIVES IN A CAVE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.



"HE HAS EXTRACTED TERMS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE HAVE TO SEND HIM A CART-LOAD OF FOOD EVERY DAY. HE EATS THE DRIVER AND BULLOCKS ALSO, ALONG WITH THE FOOD."

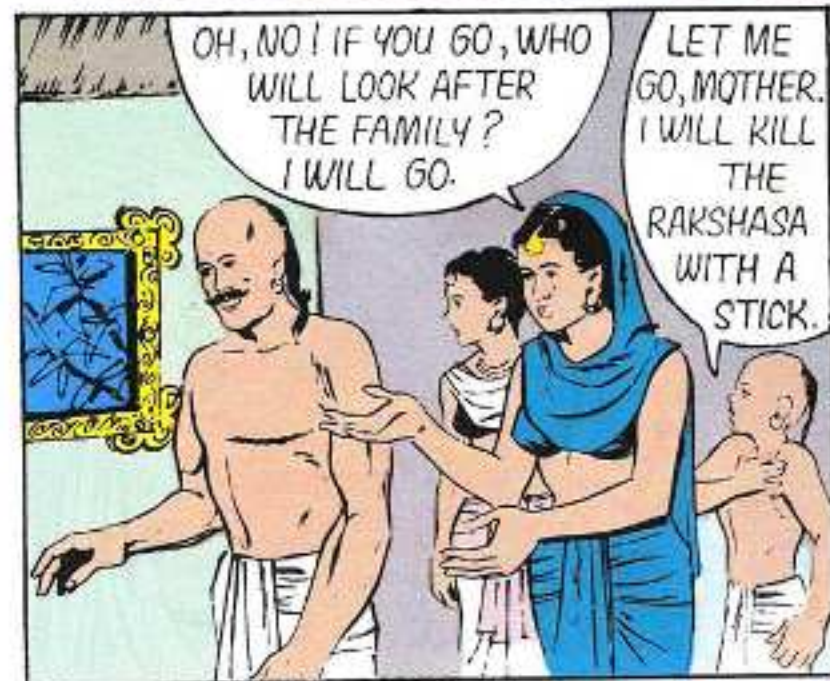


I WOULD RATHER GO MYSELF THAN SACRIFICE THIS INNOCENT GIRL.



OH, NO! IF YOU GO, WHO WILL LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY? I WILL GO.

LET ME GO, MOTHER. I WILL KILL THE RAKSHASA WITH A STICK.



YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, SON!



LATER—

AS YOU WISH, MOTHER!

BHEEMA DROVE THE CART OF FOOD TO THE BORDER OF THE TOWN. PEOPLE FLOCKED TO SEE HIM OFF.



WHEN BHEEMA REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE, HE UNYOKED THE OXEN AND SAT DOWN TO A HEARTY MEAL.



WHEN BAKASURA CAME OUT OF THE CAVE, HE WAS ENRAGED AT WHAT HE SAW.



OH! IT IS THE
RAKSHASA!
HE IS
BECOMING A
NUISANCE.



THIS POT
OF BUTTER
MILK TASTES
GOOD.



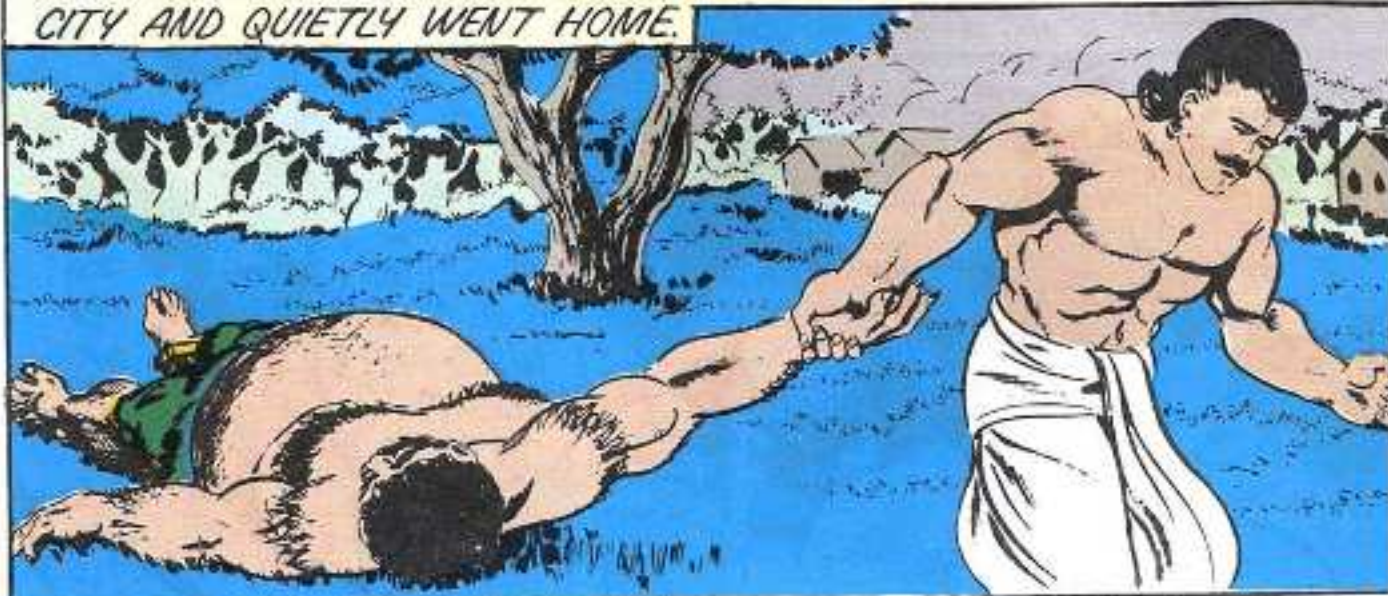
AFTER THE MEAL
BHEEMA LIFTED THE
GIANT AND HURLED
HIM VIOLENTLY ON
THE GROUND.



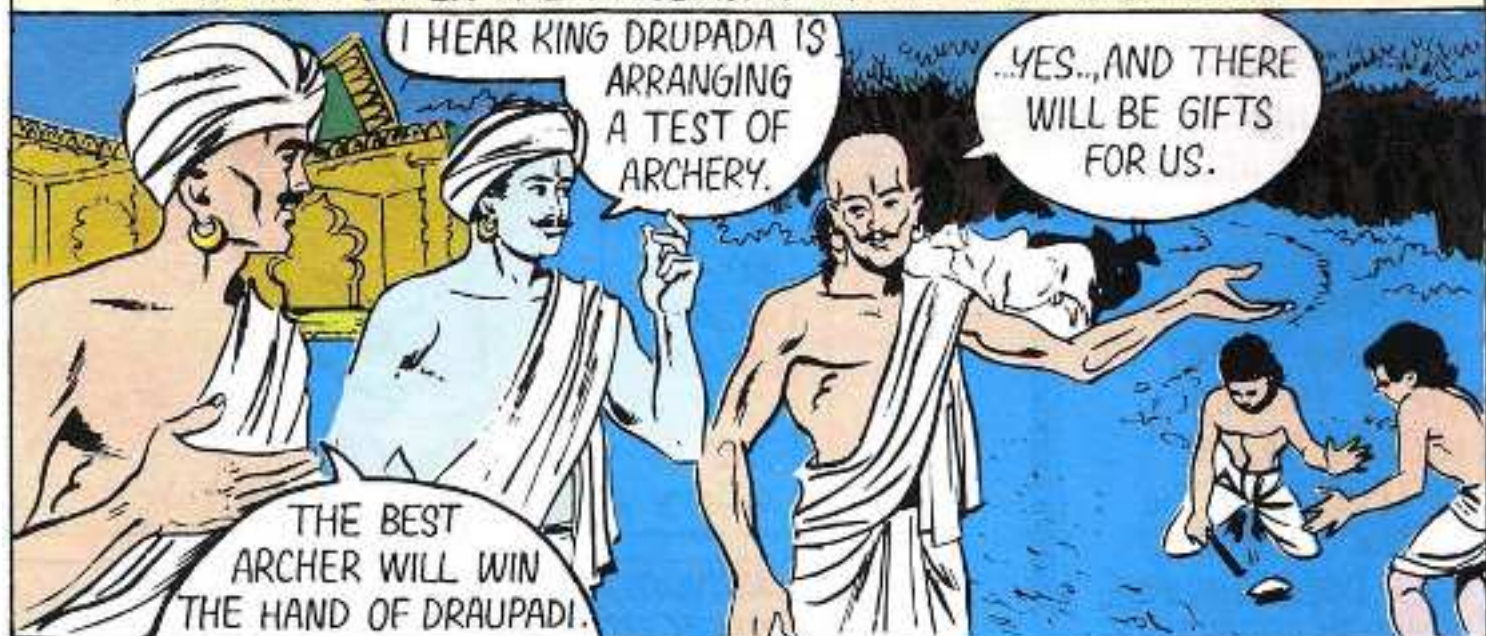
BAKASUKA
DIED ON
THE SPOT



BHEEMA DRAGGED THE DEAD BODY OF THE GIANT TO THE GATE OF THE
CITY AND QUIETLY WENT HOME.



A FEW DAYS LATER THE PANDAVAS HEARD EXCITING NEWS—



THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER,
DHRISHTADYUMNA ANNOUNCED—

FRIENDS! HERE ARE
A BOW AND ARROWS
AND THERE, ABOVE THE
REVOLVING WHEEL IS
THE TARGET-A FISH.
YOU HAVE TO HIT THE
EYE OF THE FISH,
LOOKING AT ITS
REFLECTION IN THE
WATER BELOW. WHO
EVER DOES THIS FIVE
TIMES IN SUCCESSION,
SHALL WIN THE
BRIDE.



THE
PRINCES
TRIED
ONE
AFTER
ANOTHER
BUT
NONE
COULD
LIFT
THE
HEAVY BOW.

THIS IS NO
BOW! NO
MAN CAN
WIN THE
TEST!!



DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND
WHEN HE TRIED TO LIFT THE BOW. LORD
KRISHNA LOOKED MEANINGFULLY AT
ARJUNA, HIS COUSIN.



ARJUNA GOT UP FROM
THE ENCLOSURE OF
BRAHMAN'S.

WITH THE PERMISSION OF DHIRISHTADYUMNA, HE LIFTED THE BOW, STRUNG IT, AND SENT FIVE ARROWS IN QUICK SUCCESSION.

EVERY ARROW OF HIS HAS HIT THE TARGET.

FANTASTIC!!



DRAUPADI GARLANDED HIM.



THERE WAS AN UPROAR IN THE HALL.
DURYODHANA! WE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS!

YES, SHISHUPALA.
IT IS A DISGRACE TO US ALL.

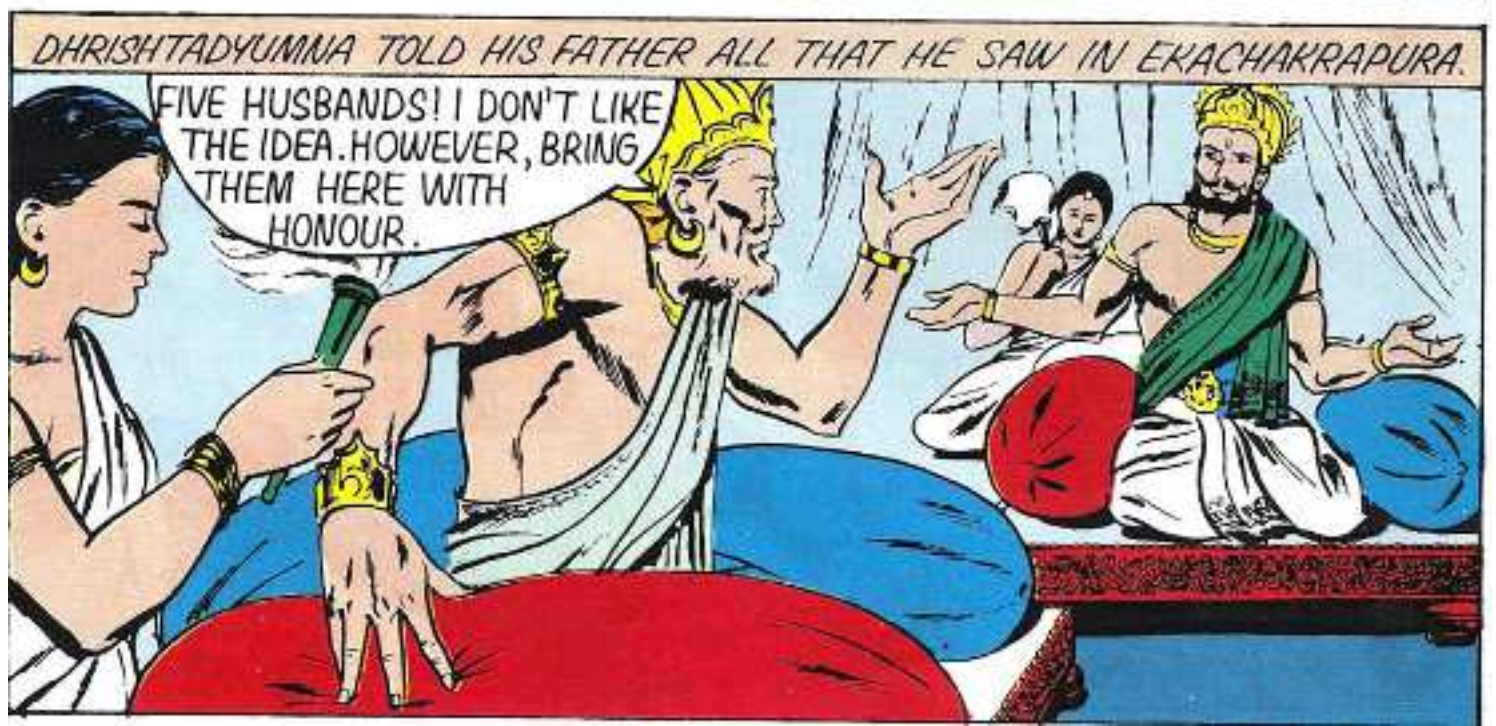
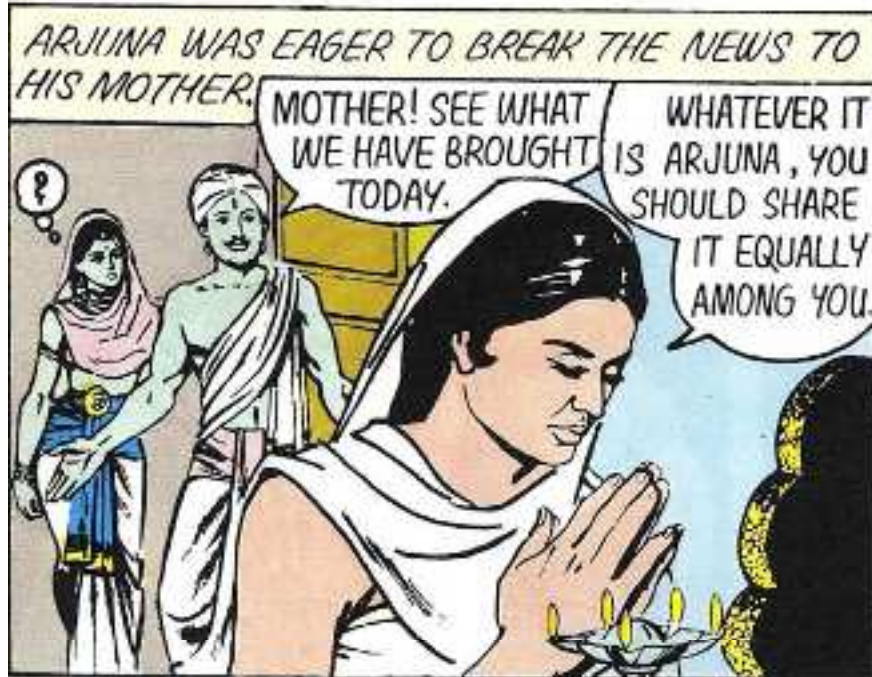


MANY OF THE PRINCES RUSHED TO THE DAIS. BHEEMA CAME TO HELP ARJUNA.

IF ANYONE COMES ONE STEP FURTHER, I WILL SMASH HIS SKULL.



IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS WITH THE NEWLY-WON-BRIDE, LEFT FOR EKACHAKRAPURA. KING DRUPADA, HOWEVER, WAS WORRIED.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HASTINAPURA...

YUDHISHTHIRA
AND BHEEMA,
ALIVE!

AND GROWN STRONGER
TOO. DRUPADA HAS
A LARGE ARMY.

LET US ATTACK DRUPADA
AND FINISH HIM AND HIS
FIVE SONS-IN-LAW!

BHEESHMA AND VIDURA ADVISED DHRITARASHTRA -

BRING THEM WITH
HONOUR TO
HASTINAPURA.

NO, FATHER! I WILL
NEVER TOLERATE
THIS!

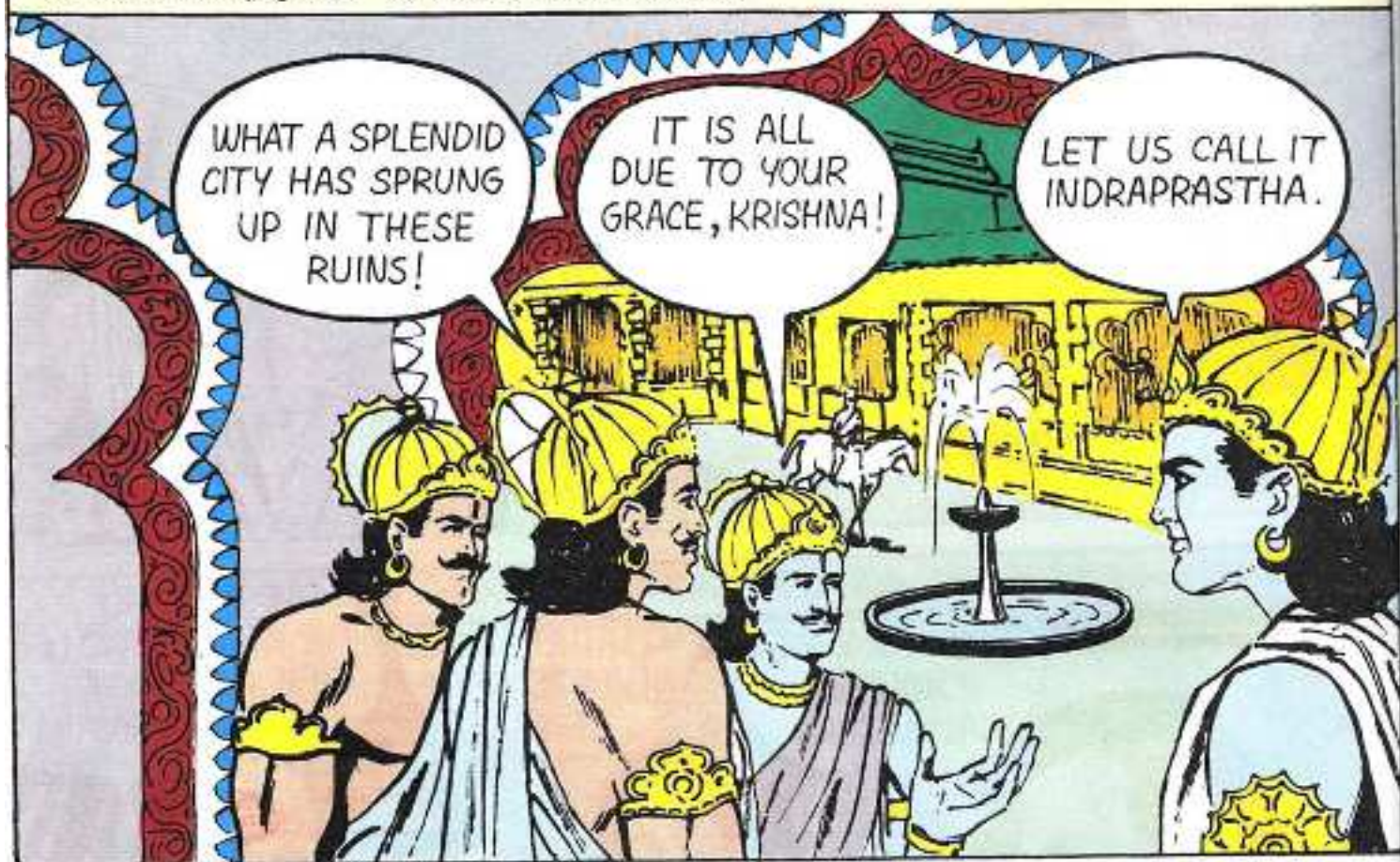
GIVE THEM HALF
THE KINGDOM AND LET
THEM RULE FROM
KHANDAVAPRASTHA.

I HATE THEM!
I HATE THEM!!
I WANT TO RUN
AWAY FROM
HERE.

PLEASE PUT
ON A SMILE! WE MUST
PRETEND TO
WELCOME THEM.

THE PANDAVAS WERE INVITED
TO HASTINAPURA

A FEW DAYS AFTER THEIR TRIUMPHANT RETURN, THE PANDAVAS LEFT FOR KHANDAVAPRASTHA TO BUILD A NEW CITY.



WHAT A SPLENDID CITY HAS SPRUNG UP IN THESE RUINS!

IT IS ALL DUE TO YOUR GRACE, KRISHNA!

LET US CALL IT INDRAPRASTHA.

THEY RULED FROM INDRAPRASTHA FOR MANY YEARS. LORD KRISHNA WAS THEIR FRIEND AND ADVISER. ONE DAY—



LORD KRISHNA, OUR ELDER BROTHER DOES NOT AGREE THAT WE SHOULD PERFORM THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE.

BUT ARJUNA, WE CAN'T PERFORM THE RAJASUYA UNLESS I AM ACKNOWLEDGED THE LEADER BY ALL OTHERS.

WE WILL MAKE THEM ACKNOWLEDGE YOU.



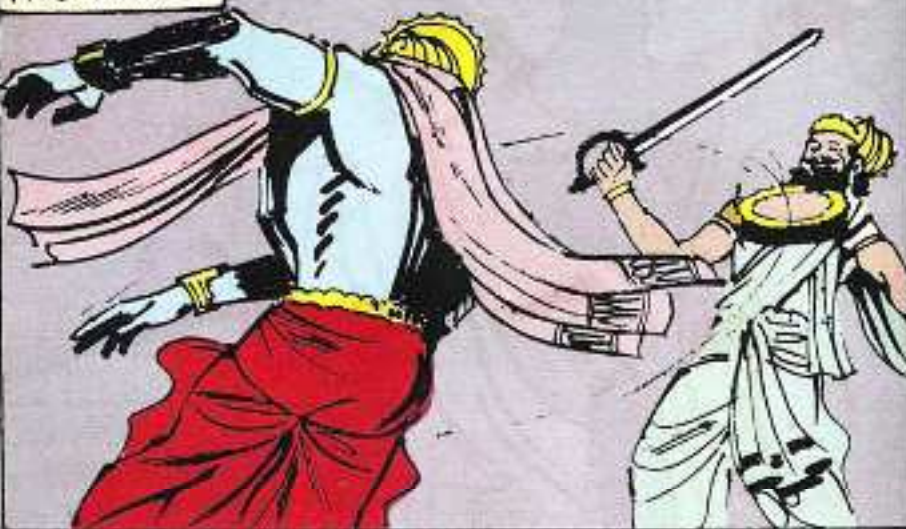
IN THE FIERCE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWED, JARASANDHA WAS KILLED BY BHEEMA.



BHEEMA RETURNED IN TRIUMPH TO INDRAPRASTHA. KINGS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GATHERED TO ATTEND THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE BUT-



AS SHISHUPALA MADE AN ASSAULT ON KRISHNA, THE DISCUS OF KRISHNA CUT OFF HIS HEAD.



AND THE RAJASUYA WAS COMPLETED WHICH MADE THE PANDAVAS SUPREME IN THE COUNTRY. VICTORY TO

